

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 24 as follows.

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

E ' 24. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for synthesizing first image data sensed by a first image sensing means with second image data sensed by a second image sensing means, wherein the first and second image sensing means are arranged separately on a mobile object with a known distance between them in the moving direction of the mobile object, the first image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction substantially aligned with the moving direction of the mobile object, the second image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction aligned with a direction opposite to the moving direction of the mobile object, and each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating when the image data was sensed, said method comprising the steps of:

retrieving image data sensed at a first time instant from among a group of the first image data;

retrieving image data sensed at a second time instant from among a group of the second image data, where the second time instant is a time occurring after the first time instant by a time period corresponding to the known distance between the first image sensing means and the second image sensing means; and

synthesizing the image data retrieved at the first time instant and the second time instant to make panoramic image data.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the time period between the first time instant and the second time instant is determined from the known distance and a velocity of the mobile object at the time the first and second images were sensed.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating where the image was sensed.

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27. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus for synthesizing first image data sensed by a first image sensing means with second image data sensed by second image sensing means, wherein the first and second image sensing means are arranged separately on a mobile object with a known distance between them in the moving direction of the mobile object, wherein the first image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction substantially aligned with the moving direction of the mobile object, the second image sensing means is arranged to have an image sensing direction aligned with a direction opposite to the moving direction of the mobile object, and each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating when the image data was sensed, said apparatus comprising:

first retrieving means for retrieving the image data sensed at a first time instant from among a group of the first image data;

second retrieving means for retrieving the image data sensed at a second time instant,
after a time corresponding to the known distance from the first time instant, from among a
group of the second image data; and

synthesizing means for synthesizing the two retrieved image data to make panoramic
image data.
